

Hemel Gazette

Broken Buncefield

By Aida Nethercoat, local news reporter, Hemel Hempstead.

Buncefield, which is located on the outskirts of Hemel Hempstead tragically exploded at six am on this frosty December morning. It is believed that this was caused by a faulty light bulb setting fire to some highly flammable oil tanks. Many people think this was caused by terrorists as a few years back there were some attacks, but police say it was all just an accident.

As it was early in the morning it was quiet and the whole of Hemel Hempstead was asleep (luckily for the workers). It was on the cold, calm December morning that Hemel faced destruction. Everything started with just a lightbulb. The lightbulb was broken and started to flicker, it set fire to some oil tanks.

In almost an instant a large explosion erupted inside the building (which could be heard from over 40 miles away). Houses were set ablaze, windows: smashed, doors: blown in and ceilings: collapsed. Many people were injured including 4 seriously.

Lots heard the explosion and were awakened. Everybody was told to stay inside but of course nobody did. Residents nearby the oil depot were evacuated to Jarman park for safety. As a consequence of this the M1 (important motorway going up north) was shut. It is said that over 150 firefighters were on the scene but had to wait for approximately 2 days before they could kill the beast.



Oil Depot car park



Fire seen from miles away

Jean (a sixty-three year old resident) told us that it had woken her up and thought that maybe "something had exploded in the kitchen". Many other locals were also awakened by this big explosion too.

We have some information from a police officer, PC Jones. He has stated that people should stay inside as "the smoke is deadly".

Firefighter Smith has been at this career for over twenty years and has not seen a fire this big before. He has reassured us that "it is okay but stay inside just to be on the safe side". The crew are not able to fight the beast until it is calmer which will not be for at least two days.